GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2517
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
DECREASING BROADBAND CHARGES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the telecom operators in the country have drastically reduced the broadband charges for internet users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL/BSNL propose to follow suit to facilitate its customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by both the PSUs in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a). The service providers including BSNL/MTNL have been revising and restructuring various tariff plans by way of altering one or more of the tariff components. In general, there has been decrease in overall financial implication for the subscribers in the form of reduction in monthly rentals or increase of transfer speed or both.

(b) All major operators offer unlimited usage plans (subject to fair usage policy where speed may be reduced after certain predefined usage limits). Indicative trend in tariff offered by some of the major service providers for unlimited usage broadband plans is given below;

Service provider	September 2009 Monthly charge	September 2009 Speed	March 2012 Monthly charge	March 2012 Speed	Remarks
BSNL	750	256 Kbps	499	512 Kbps upto 4 GB, 256 Kbps beyond 4 GB	Reduction in monthly charges & increase in data transfer speed
MTNL-Delhi	599	256 Kbps	599	512 Kbps	Increase in data transfer speed with no change in monthly charges
Bharti-Delhi	649	256 Kbps	899	4 Mbps upto 6 GB, 256Kbps beyond 6 GB	Restructuring in tariff. Increase in monthly charge with substantial increase in data transfer speed

Sify-Delhi 899 384 kbps 499 384 kbps Reduction in monthly charges

(c) Both BSNL & MTNL periodically review and revise/introduce tariff plans taking into consideration the competition in the market and other conditions.

(d)&(e) Though MTNL has not made any reductions in its tariff for broadband, but it has increased the data transfer speed for its unlimited plan. Steps taken by BSNL in this regard are as given below:-

i. With respect to Wireline Broadband, Changed tariff details are enclosed as Annexure.

ii. Under Wi-MAX limited plans, additional usage charges beyond free usage have been reduced from Rs. 0.80/MB to Rs. 0.20/MB (upto 5 GB) and from Rs. 0.80/MB to Rs. 0.10/MB (beyond 5 GB) from 16.08.2011 to 31.03.2012 as promotional measure.

iii. In case of 3G Broadband, 50% extra data usage for postpaid and prepaid data plans/data Recharge Vouchers(RCVs) with free usage of 1 GB and above, and upto 40% discount on MRP of 3G Data RCVs of Rs. 1250, Rs. 1800 & Rs. 2250 upto 31.03.2012 were; offered as promotional schemes.